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Title:

Press release: Wheat Quotas (Minister of Agriculture)

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PRESS RELEASE

(Full distribution - T.V., radio, metropolitan and country press, etc.)

The Wheat Delivery Quota Review Committee was ready to proceed with the hearing of appeals against quotas in respect of the 1970/71 quota season, the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. T.M. Casey, M.L.C.) announced to-day.

Mr. Casey said that following amendments made during the last session of Parliament to the Wheat Delivery Quotas Act, certain preliminary formalities had to be completed in relation to the contingency reserve for the current season, but this would not prevent the Review Committee from commencing its hearings.

The Minister stated that a special committee set up under the amending legislation to fix the contingency reserve - the amount of wheat set aside from the State Quota to be available to adjust quotas which were the subject of appeals to the Review Committee - had recommended to him a reserve of 700,000 bushels for the current quota season.

Past experience had shown that, due to the inadequacy of the reserve available to satisfy appeals which the Review Committee considered were justified, the Committee had been unable to afford growers full redress in all cases in which anomalies were evident. It was considered that the increased contingency reserve for the present quota season would go a long way towards rectifying this situation for the current year.

"The Act provides that appeals against quotas must be lodged by growers within one month of the date of receipt of advice of their quotas", Mr. Casey said. "However, the Review Committee has power to extend the time for lodgement of appeals, and it has indicated that in the circumstances all bona fide appeals lodged by 1st March 1971 are likely to be considered by the tribunal on their merits".

He urged all farmers who considered that an appeal against the quota allotted them by the Wheat Delivery Quota Advisory Committee was warranted, to lodge their claim with the Review Committee as soon as possible.